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Report of the East Asian Regional Orchid Specialist Group

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Although unable to attend the Second International Orchid Conservation Congress because of a delay in processing of my application for a U.S. Tourist Visa by the U.S. Consulate General in Hong Kong, I submit the following report on activities of the East Asian Regional Orchid Specialist Group (EAROSG) for the General Meeting of the IUCN Orchid Specialist Group.

Limestone Orchids of China. In recent years, the EAROSG members have devoted a great deal of effort to the conservation of wild orchids in China. Between 1999 and 2003, some group members assisted with a program entitled, Diversity, Status, Trade, and Conservation of Native Orchid Species in Limestone Regions of Yunnan, Guizhou, and Guangxi. Program sponsors are the CITES Management Authority of China, the Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden, and the Institute of Botany of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Program participants were honored to have Phillip Cribb serve as program consultant in conserving the threatened and endangered orchids in the core limestone regions of China. The first-hand information obtained in the program will be provided to the relevant Chinese Government departments for use in implementing conservation measures.

Orchid Conservation Workshop. The EAROSG cosponsored the Orchid Conservation Workshop in Limestone Regions of Yunnan, Guizhou, and Guangxi on 6–9 April 2004, along with the CITES Management Authority of China, Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden, Guizhou Provincial Forestry Bureau, and the Institute of Botany of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. A total of 96 delegates included Peoples Republic of China (PRC) officials, nature reserve managers, orchid experts, academicians, and reporters. Representatives of six national and two local media organizations attended and covered the event. The workshop organizers issued a press release on the diversity, status, trade and conservation of native orchid species in limestone regions of Yunnan, Guizhou, and Guangxi and also conducted an In Situ Orchid Conservation Training for management and front-line personnel of nature reserves within limestone regions in the three provinces.

Chinese Orchids in Trade Manual. EAROSG members Lang Kai Yong, Yu Yong Fu, and Gloria Siu are assisting the CITES Management Authority of China in compiling a book to be entitled, "Identification Manual of Orchids Common in Trade in China." It will be a reference for front-line staff of relevant Chinese Government departments, such as Customs, that are responsible for preventing illegal orchid trade.

Chinese Forestry Master Plan. EAROSG members Chen Sing Chi, Luo Yi Bo, and Gloria Siu were asked to serve as consultants on a National Master Planning on Conservation of Key Orchid Species by the State Forestry Administration, China. EAROSG members offered information on effective conservation measures and suggestions to this national program, which will be in effect through 2010.

Reintroducing a Chinese Orchid. Since August 2003, some EAROSG members have assisted with a Reintroduction Program for an endangered orchid in China, the first comprehensive orchid reintroduction program conducted in the nation.

Conserving Japanese Orchids. Tomohisa Yukawa and other EAROSG members have organized meetings in Japan to share their experience on orchid conservation and cultivation.

Future Projects. In the coming years, EAROSG members see capacity building in orchid conservation for young scientists and for the front-line personnel of nature reserves as one of the core works of the group.